

Jury Duty Scam

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The jury duty scam is only about three weeks old and has already been reported in nine states: Arizona , Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington State .

Overview: Imagine receiving a phone call saying you failed to report for jury duty and a warrant has been issued for your arrest. Discover how scammers are using this scenario to commit identity theft:

Identity theft scammers, pretending to work for local courts, are calling potential victims with the news that they have failed to report for jury duty and that a warrant has been issued for their arrest. They then ask victims for personal confidential information, including social security numbers, birth dates, and credit card numbers for "verification" purposes. This is exactly the information scammers need to commit identity theft.

"It's not at all surprising that the jury duty scam is so effective," says Dr. Audri G. Lanford, Co-Editor of Internet ScamBusters, the #1 publication on Internet fraud. "Victims are caught off guard and are understandably upset at the idea of a warrant being issued for their arrest, so they are much less likely to be careful about protecting their confidential information and their identity," says Dr. Lanford.

In reality, court workers do not call potential jurors and ask for their social security numbers, credit card numbers, and other personal information. Most courts use snail mail exclusively for jury matters.

It is easy to protect yourself from this scam: Never give your social security number, credit card numbers, or other personal information when you receive a phone call, no matter what the reason.

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